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THE PLASSEY EXPEDITION

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B. B. R. A. S.

BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
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CALCUTTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE PLASSEY EXPEDITION.

PROGRAMME

BY

WALTER KELLY FIRMINGER, M.A., B.D., F.R.G.S.

31468

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EXPEDITION, MARCH 6th, 1909.

On this occasion the Society will not extend its activities to Berhampore, for on the former occasion, when an attempt was made to visit both Plassey and Berhampore, although a most pleasant and instructive day was spent, it was found necessary to leave a portion of the battlefield unvisited. It will be noted, with satisfaction, that the river has abandoned its trespass on the battlefield and that the monuments erected by Lord Curzon enable the pilgrim to identify the various historical spots with ease.

Although we shall not on this occasion visit Berhampore I should like to say in reference to the mention of the graves of George Thomas (page 16) and Henry Sherwood (page 17) that the Society, on its last visit was rewarded by successful discoveries.

W. K. F.

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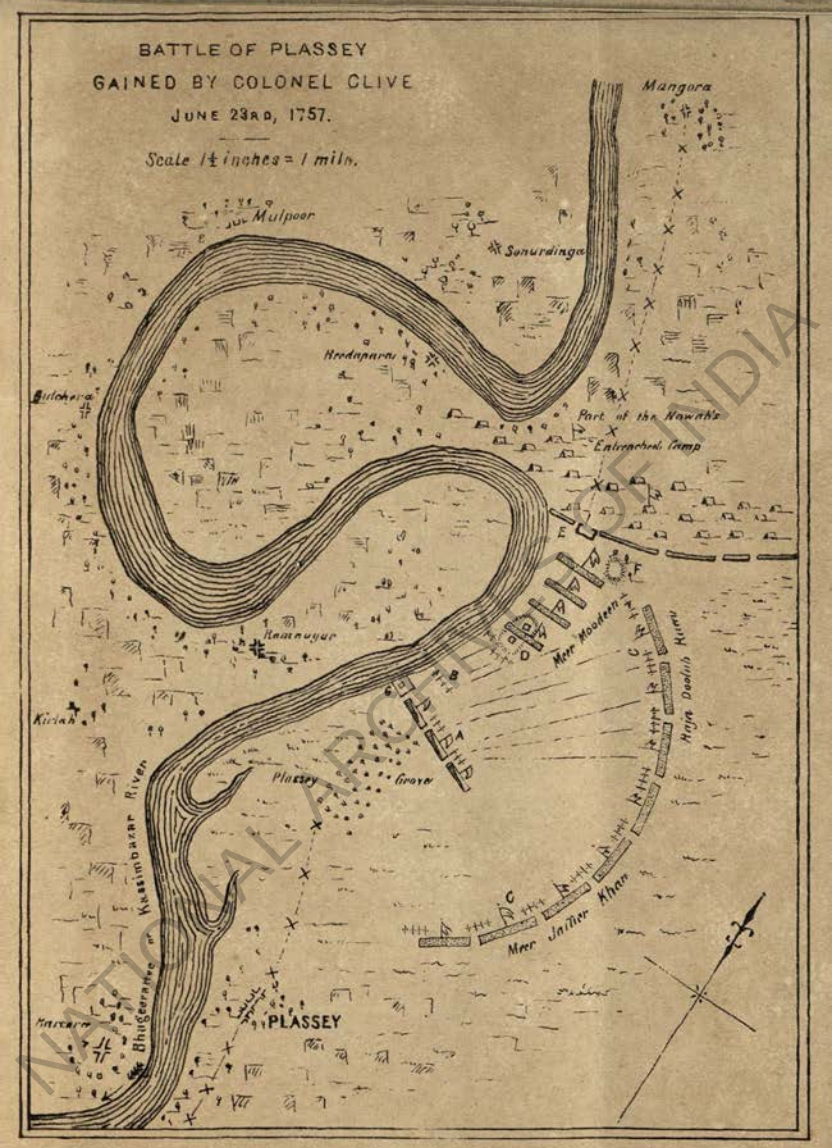

REFERENCE.

A. POSITION OF THE BRITISH ARMY AT 8 IN THE MORNING.

B. FOUR GUNS ADVANCED TO CHECK THE FIRE OF THE FRENCH PARTY AT THE TANK D.

C. THE NAWAB'S ARMY.

D. A TANK FROM WHENCE THE FRENCH PARTY CANNONADED TILL 8 IN THE AFTERNOON WHEN PART OF THE BRITISH ARMY TOOK POST THERE, AND THE ENEMY RETIRED WITHIN THEIR ENTRENCHED CAMP.

E & F A REDOUBT AND MOUND TAKEN BY ASSAULT AT HALF-PAST 4, AND WHICH COMPLETED THE VICTORY.

G. THE NAWAB'S HUNTING HOUSE

THE LINE MARKED X REPRESENTS THE INCURSIONS OF THE RIVER UP TO AT LEAST 1845.

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Plassey Expedition.

PROGRAMME.

The Map given is taken from Broome's *Rise and Progress of the Bengal Army*, published in 1850. It will be seen that so long as nearly fifty years ago the River had encroached upon many of the landmarks of the Battlefield. The historical mangoe grave has disappeared, and it is probable that the only part of the field we can view is the spot on which the forces of Mir Jafar and Rai Durlabh remained inactive during the memorable day. The interest of Plassey, however, lies in its political decisiveness rather than its character as a military achievment. Just as the capture of the Budge Budge Fort was forced by the prowess of a single drunken sailor so the battle of Plassey was actually forced by the disobedience of Kilpatrick. Mr. S. C. Hill writes: "There is no doubt that, as regards the actual fighting and the part played by the soldier, Plassey was, as a battle, not even to be compared with the skirmishes round Calcutta in the preceding February, but this does not detract from the example of moral courage exhibited by Clive. Behind him was the Bengal Council and Select Committee, composed of a body of men jealous, mean, and cowardly; before him an army enormously superior in number. His only hope lay in the courage and discipline of his troops, the greater part of whom were foreigners, including many deserters, and in the word of a man whom he had never seen, whose action up to the very moment of battle had given little or no reason for confidence, and who, as I have said, was, whatever his justification, a traitor to one who was his relative as well his sovereign." But it should be never forgotten that Plassey would not have been "decisive" had it not been for the diplomacy of one who, but for the mention of his name on the tomb his wife [the "Begum Johnson"] would be without a memorial in Bengal—William Watts.

It should also be observed that the contemporary accounts of the battle differ considerably in detail.

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An account of the discrepancies will appear in the number of *Bengal: Past and Present* in which our Expedition will be reported.

Plassey seems to have been in an intrenched camp for sometime previous to the battle, and here the Nawabs had a hunting box encompassed by a wall of pucca masonry. The position of this house is shown clearly in the Map. Close to it was the Mangoe grave "about 800 yards in length and 300 in breadth, the trees being planted in regular rows as is usual in the country; all around it was a bank of earth, which afforded a good breast-work for the troops, and also a ditch beyond but the latter was choked up with weeds and brambles."

Asking you to remember that Broome's account is open to criticism in matters of detail, I place it before your attention.

"The troops commenced their march before sunset, following the course of the river in line with the boats, which were towed up against the stream; after eight hours of extreme fatigue, marching constantly with the water up to their waists,—owing to the inundation caused by the recent heavy rain, which continued to pour on them during the whole route,—they reached Plassey, a distance of fifteen miles, at one o'clock in the morning of the 23rd June. Here they took up their position in a large tope or grove of mangoe trees. From this they could distinctly hear the sound of drums and other music, which convinced them that the Nawab's Army was in the immediate neighbourhood. Sooraj-oo-dowlah's intention to remain at Munkarrah had arisen from a supposition that the English would have immediately pushed on after the capture of Kutwah,—in which case they must have reached Plassey before he could have arrived there;—but when he found that they still remained inactive, he continued his march, and arrived at his old intrenched encampment, where he took up a position, twelve hours before the English reached the grove. Colonel Clive having examined his own position, and made the necessary dispositions for security, planted sentries round the camp, and permitted the troops to betake themselves to rest. After their fatigues they were

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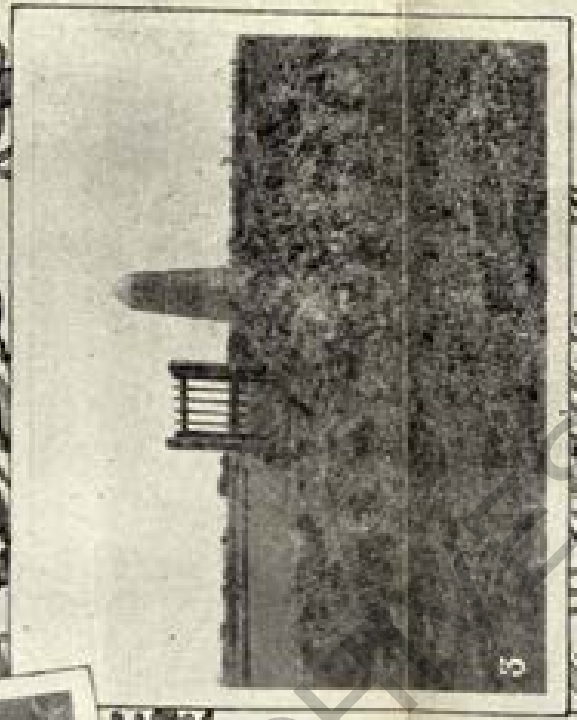

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all soon locked in sleep, and silence reigned throughout the camp; but not many of the officers, and certainly not their Commander, indulged in repose on that eventful morning.

"The mangoe tope or grove of Plassey in which Colonel Clive had taken up his position, was situated little more than a mile from the Nawab's intrenched camp: it was about 800 yards in length and 300 in breadth, the trees being planted in regular rows, as is usual in the country; all round it was a bank of earth, which afforded a good breast-work for the troops, and also a ditch beyond, but the latter was choked up with weeds and brambles:—the position of the tope was diagonal to the river, the north-west angle being little more than 50 yards from the bank, whilst at the south-west corner it was upwards of 200 yards distant. A little in advance, on the bank of the river, stood a hunting house belonging to the Nawab, encompassed by a wall of masonry. On arrival during the night, Clive had stationed a party of 200 Europeans and 300 Sipahis, with two field pieces, in this building,—but in the morning he withdrew the greater part, leaving, however, a sufficient guard for the defence of the place.

"The actual force in the Field on this occasion amounted to 950 European Infantry and 150 Artillery; in the former were included nearly 100 Bombay and 100 Bengal Topasses; and amongst the latter were, 50 Sailors and seven Midshipmen, under the Command of Lieutenant Hayter, who acted as Artillery; to these were also added a detail of Lascars; the Native Infantry consisted of 2,100 men, partly the Madras Sipahis and partly the newly raised Bengal Battalion. The Artillery train was composed of 10 field pieces, *viz.*, 8 six-pounders and 2 small howitzers.

"The Nawab's Army consisted altogether of 50,000 Foot, 18,000 Horse, and 53 pieces of Artillery, mostly of heavy calibres, 32, 24, and 18 pounders. These were mounted on large platforms, furnished with wheels, and drawn by 40 or 50 yoke of powerful oxen, assisted by elephants; one of the latter animals followed each carriage, pushing it forward with his head whenever it came to any difficulty;

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on these platforms were conveyed not only the guns and carriages, but the ammunition, stores, and gunners. The most efficient portion of the whole force was a small party of between forty and fifty Frenchmen, chiefly deserters, under the command of a Monsieur St. Frais, * formerly one of the Council at Chandernagore; this detail acted as Artillery, and had 4 light field pieces attached.

"Near the spot selected for the Nawab's intrenched camp, the river made a remarkable bend, in shape like a horse-shoe, with the points much contracted, —thereby forming a peninsula of about three miles in circumference, the neck of which was less than a quarter of a mile in breadth. The intrenchment commenced a little below the southern point of this gorge, resting on the river, from whence it extended inland for about 200 yards, and then at an obtuse angle swept round to the north-east for about 3 miles; at this angle a redoubt was erected, on which several pieces of cannon were mounted.*

"About 300 yards to the eastward of this redoubt, was a hillock covered with jungle, and about 800 yards to the south nearer to the grove, was a tank, —and 100 yards further south was a second and larger one;—both of these were surrounded by bunds or large banks of earth, at some distance from their margins, and with the hillock, all formed important positions for either force to occupy. The Nawab's Army was encamped partly in the peninsula and partly in rear of the intrenchment. The infantry were armed with matchlocks, swords, pikes, bows and arrows, and rockets, and possessed little or no discipline; the Cavalry in which the strength of the Army consisted, was of a superior description, both men and horses being of northern origin and large size.

"At daybreak on the 23rd, the whole Army moved out of the intrenchment, by several openings purposely left, and advanced towards the British position,—the Infantry and Cavalry marching in separate and compact bodies and making a splendid appearance. St. Frais and his party took post in advance, with their 4 field pieces, at the larger tank

* A Sinfray.

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nearest the grove; and in a line to their right, near the river, two heavy guns were posted under a Native officer; behind these two batteries were stationed a chosen body of 5,000 Horse and 7,000 Foot, partly under Meer Moodeen, the Nawab's best and most faithful General, and partly under a son of the favourite Mohun Lall. The remainder of the Army extended in a curve, their right resting on the hillock near the camp, and sweeping round in dense columns of Horse and Foot to about 800 yards to the eastward of the south-east angle of the grove. Here were stationed the troops of Meer Jaffier Khan, Rajah Doolub Ram, and Yar Lootf Khan. Instead of adopting the usual mode of posting all the guns in one heavy battery, they were interspersed between the several columns, two, three, and four pieces together. Thus the English were nearly surrounded —either by the river or the enemy's force; but the chief opposition they had in reality to overcome, was from the troops in their front.

"Clive watched the enemy's dispositions from the top of the hunting house, and though astonished at their numbers and apparent confidence, he considered it advisable to move his troops from their sheltered position in the grove, as their remaining there might have been attributed to timidity, which would have only rendered the enemy bolder and more enterprizing. He accordingly drew them up in line in front of the grove, their left resting on the hunting house. In the centre he placed the Europeans, who were told off into four divisions; the 1st commanded by Major Kilpatrick, the 2nd by Major Archibald Grant, the 3rd by Major Eyre Coote, and the 4th by Captain G. F. Gaupp; on either flank of the Europeans were posted 3 six-pounders, and beyond them, to the right and left, were the Sipahis in two divisions.

"This line extended about 600 yards beyond the right of the grove, but the enemy on that flank were at such a distance, that there was little to fear in that quarter, as they could easily have thrown back their right and formed in front of and parallel to the east side of the grove, had such been rendered necessary. About 200 yards in front of the hunting house and the left division of Sipahis, were a couple

of brick kilns,—and here a small party was posted in advance with the remaining 2 six-pounders and the 2 howitzers. About eight A.M. the action commenced by the discharge of one of St. Frais' guns from the tank, which killed one and wounded another of the Grenadier Company that was posted on the right of the European Battalion: this was the signal for the whole force to open their fire, and a heavy cannonade was immediately commenced from the enemy's line, but fortunately most of their shot flew high, and did but little mischief. The four pieces in advance at the brick kilns, replied promptly and effectively to the fire of St. Frais' guns from the tank, and the other batteries of the enemy were answered by the six-pounders from the line; these latter were, however, too light to make any impression on the enemy's heavy Artillery, but every shot told well amongst the dense masses of their Cavalry and Infantry. Still, though many of the enemy were slain, the disparity of numbers was too great to render this of any advantage, and in half an hour, —the English having lost 10 Europeans and 20 Sipahis killed and wounded,—Clive ordered the troops to retire steadily under shelter of the grove, —leaving a detachment still at the brick kilns, and another in Plassey house. This movement greatly elated the enemy, who advanced their guns much nearer, and began to fire with greater vivacity; but their shot had little effect beyond shattering the trees, as the troops were well protected by the embankment, and were directed to sit down so as to be but little exposed; holes were made in the bank to serve as embrasures for the field pieces, from which they kept up a smart and effective fire, killing and wounding a number of the enemy's gunners, and causing several serious explosions amongst their ammunition. In this state, matters continued for two or three hours,—numbers of the enemy falling at every discharge of the English Artillery, which appears to have been most skilfully and gallantly served, whilst every now and then a casualty occurred amongst the party in the grove. At about 11 A.M. Clive held a conference with his officers at the drumhead, when it was decided to maintain the cannonade during the day, and at midnight to make an

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attack upon the Nawab's camp.—About noon a very heavy shower commenced, which lasted for nearly an hour, and completely deluged the plain, at the same time that it damaged nearly all the enemy's ammunition, which was much exposed; the consequence was that their fire materially slackened. A party of the enemy's horse, anticipating a similar result as regarded the English Artillery, advanced boldly towards the grove, to take advantage of it; but the English arrangements were so much better in this respect, that their ammunition had received little or no injury,—and this body of Cavalry were received with so warm a fire as to induce them to retire with some precipitation. In this affair Meer Moodeen was mortally wounded by a shot from one of the six-pounders. When the intelligence of this misfortune was brought to the Nawab, he was greatly disheartened, and immediately sent for Meer Jaffier Khan. Up to this period he had been sitting in his tent, fed by flattering assurances of victory, brought from time to time by those about him. On Meer Jaffier Khan's arrival, the Nawab supplicated his assistance in the most humiliating manner, and called upon him by his relationship and fidelity to Ali Verdee Khan, to exert himself to save him now, throwing his turband on the ground before him and saying—'Jaffier, that turband you must defend.' Meer Jaffier bowed with his hands on his breast, and promised to exert himself to the utmost. He immediately returned to his troops and confederates, and sent off a letter to Colonel Clive, informing him of what had passed, and urging him to push on immediately, or at any rate to attack the camp at night. This letter, owing to the cowardice of the messenger, did not reach its destination until late in the evening. In the mean time the fears of the Nawab continued to increase every moment, of which Rajah Doolub Ram took advantage, and urged him to return to the Capital.

"This insiduous advice was adopted, and after having issued the orders for the troops to retire within their intrenchment, Sooraj-oo-dowlah mounted a fleet sowaree camel, and accompanied by about 2,000 Horsemen, fled at his utmost speed towards the Capital,—by which act he sealed his fate.

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"About 2 P.M. the enemy's cannonade completely ceased, and they were observed yoking their oxen and slowly retiring towards their camp, in obedience to the orders they had received. St. Frais and his little party, however, still maintained their post at the tank. This would have been an advantageous position from which to cannonade the retreating enemy, and Major Kilpatrick observing that the French party were now nearly isolated, could not resist so tempting an opportunity of securing the post;—taking two companies of the Battalion and two field pieces, he hastened forward from the grove towards the tank, sending word to Colonel Clive of what he had done, and the motives that induced him to the measure.

"The Colonel had just gone into Plassey house to change his clothes and rest himself after so many hours of fatigue and excitement, giving orders that he should be informed if any change or movement was observed in the enemy's position. It has been reported he had fallen asleep,—and if such was the case, it could not be wondered at, after what he had undergone, and it would only serve to prove the nerve and calmness of the man, who could snatch a few moments repose at such a time and under such circumstances. Be this as it may, the moment he received Major Kilpatrick's message, he hastened to the spot, and severely reprimanded that officer for acting without orders; but seeing matters advanced so far, he directed him to return to the grove and bring up the rest of the troops, whilst he himself remained in command of the detachment, being determined now rather to bring on the action again than make a retreat. St. Frais observing that the whole force was advancing, and that his own position was entirely unsupported, abandoned the tank,—carrying off his field pieces, and retreating with them to the redoubt at the angle of the intrenchment, where he planted them, all ready to act again.

"Whilst the main body of the English were advancing towards the tank, that part of the Nawab's Army, which had been stationed on the left flank opposite to the south-east angle of the grove, were observed

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to linger behind the rest of the force in the retreat, and when they had come up almost abreast of the northern line of the grove, they faced to their left and advanced in that direction; these were the troops of Meer Jaffier Khan, but not being recognised, it was supposed, that they intended to fall upon the baggage and boats whilst the main body was advancing. Accordingly, a party of Europeans and Sipahis was detached from the line to oppose them, under the command of Captains Alexander Grant and Rumbold, with a field piece under the charge of Mr. John Johnstone of the Civil Service, who served again during this campaign as a Volunteer with the Artillery. The fire of this field piece soon stopped the advance of Meer Jaffier Khan's troops.

"Meanwhile the main body having reached the tank, Clive planted all the field pieces on the mound, and from thence began to cannonade the enemy's camp, upon which many of their troops again came out of the intrenchment, and their Artillery began to do the same.

"Clive observing this, advanced nearer and posted half the troops and Artillery on the mound of the lesser tank, and the remainder on a rising ground about 200 yards to the left of it; he also detached the Grenadiers of H. M.'s 39th Regiment, and the Grenadier Company of the Bengal Sipahi Battalion, to lodge themselves behind a tank close to the enemy's intrenchment, from whence they kept up a hot fire of musketry, whilst the cannonade from the other two stations was maintained with such vigour and efficiency as to cause a very heavy loss amongst the enemy's troops, and threw the cattle attached to their guns into great confusion. On the other hand, St. Frais plyed his guns from the redoubt with great spirit, and the enemy's matchlock men from the intrenchments, and from the hillock east of the redoubt, maintained an irregular but unintermitting fire. Their Cavalry also made several bold attempts to charge, but were as often repulsed by the rapid and deadly fire of the British field pieces. It was here that the contest was most obstinate, and on this occasion the chief loss of the English was sustained. At last, Clive observing that Meer Jaffier Khan's party

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were moving away from the field without joining the rest of the Nawab's troops, became convinced who they were; and having now no danger to apprehend on his flank or rear, he determined on making a vigorous effort for victory, by attacking St. Frais' redoubt, and the hillock to the east of it,—in the jungle of which it was suspected there was an ambuscade. Two strong detachments were formed for this purpose, and advanced from either flank, whilst the main body moved forward more slowly to support either party, or to act as occasion should offer. The detachment on the right gained the hillock without firing a shot, and when that to the left closed upon the redoubt, St. Frais finding himself again deserted by his allies, retired without offering any further resistance,—leaving the redoubt and field pieces in the hands of the attacking party. This position being carried, no further opposition was attempted, and by 5 o'clock the English were in possession of the whole intrenchment and camp, with no other obstacle to their advance than was presented by the enormous mass of baggage, stores, camp equipage and cattle, scattered all round them.

"The success was rendered more complete and positive by the arrival of messengers from Meer Jaffier Khan, to which Colonel Clive replied by requesting a meeting the following morning at Daoodpore. The troops being informed that they were to receive a liberal donation in money, welcomed the order to push on to Daoodpore with hearty cheers, notwithstanding the fatigue they had already undergone during the last two days, and the temptation to plunder that lay spread around them. A short halt was made to enable the Commissariat to take possession of a sufficient number of the Nawab's splendid oxen, to replace the inferior cattle in their own Artillery and store carriages; but a detachment under Major Coote was sent on at once, to pursue the enemy and prevent any attempt to rally, and by 8 o'clock the whole force reached Daoodpore, where they rested for the night. The loss of the British in this action was remarkably small, amounting only to 7 Europeans and 16 Sipahis killed, and 13 Europeans and 36 Sipahis wounded; of the Europeans 6 of the killed

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and 10 of the wounded belonged to the Artillery, on whom the brunt of the action rested; two officers of that arm were also wounded, but their names are not recorded; these were the only officers who received any injury, with exception to Mr. Shoreditch, a Midshipman of the *Kent*, also attached to the Artillery, who was shot in the thigh. The loss of the enemy amounted to about 500 killed, and an equal proportion wounded, including several of their officers; 3 elephants and a number of horses were also left dead on the field, and 53 pieces of cannon, the whole of the baggage, camp equipage, stores and cattle, fell into the hands of the victors.—Thus was fought and won the famous of Plassey, which may truly be said to have decided the fate of India.

"The Corps engaged were the Bengal European Battalion, detachments of H. M.'s 39th Regiment, of the Madras and of the Bombay Battalions; the whole of the Artillery, the 1st Sipahi Battalion, and the detachment of Madras Sipahis. Of these Corps, H. M.'s 39th Regiment, the Bengal Battalion, [*now the 1st Bengal European Fusiliers;*] the Madras Battalion, [*now the 1st Madras European Fusiliers;*] the Bombay Battalion [*now the 1st Bombay European Fusiliers;*] and the Bengal Sipahi Battalion, [*now the 1st Regiment Bengal Native Infantry,*] have all been permitted to emblazon the word "*Plassey*" on their colours and appointments; a distinction which has been unaccountably withheld from the Artillery to whom in reality the victory was mainly to be attributed."

ADDENDUM TO THE PLASSEY PROGRAMME.

While these notes were in the press, the writer has received his copy of the *Journal of the Society of Arts* for 22nd November 1907. This number contains a most interesting address by Sir Stevart Colvin Bailey, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Chairman of the Council, on "Lord Clive and His Past in the Foundation of the Indian Empire." Lord Clive himself was an enthusiastic member of the Society of Arts, and after Plassey the Society struck a medal in Clive's honour. Sir S. C. Bailey writes: "Clive's mother was a Miss Gaskell, and her sister was the first wife of my great-

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grandfather, and, for some reason not explained, Clive was transferred from his own home at the age of 3, and for the next 10, 7 or 8 years was entirely brought up by my ancestor, in his house near Manchester. It is from the few surviving letters of Mr. Daniel Bayley that most of the glimpses which we have of Lord Clive's early boyhood are derived."

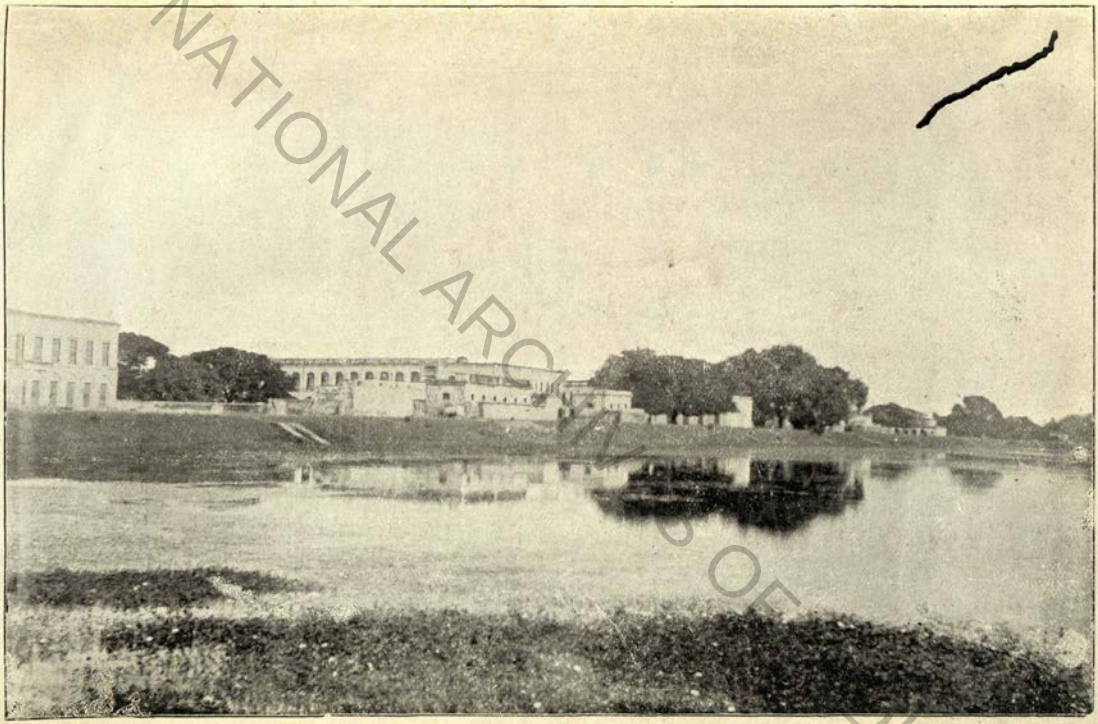
Sir S. C. Bailey writes:—

"The field of Plassey, like many other placed—names in Bengal, owes its designation to a conspicuous tree that once stood there. No one who knows the jungles of India in March and April (we do not speak of spring in a country which has no winter, and where the trees generally retain their leaves all the year round), no one, I can say, can fail to be struck by the wealth of colour with which the jungle is enriched at this time of the year by the trees and flowing shrubs. Conspicuous amongst these are the orange-coloured blossoms of the *butea frondosa*, called in Hindustan the *dhak* tree. in Bengal the palas. It was from one of these trees that Plassey derives its name. I have myself visited Plassey, and though the general outlines of the battle-field can be made out, the particular landmarks noted in all the contemporary accounts of the battle are for the most part gone. Gone is the mango tope in which Clive had his entrenchments; gone the small hunting-box at the corner; gone also the brick-kilns which were his advanced posts. The very loop of the river within which the Nawab's army was entrenched is discernable only as a depression in the ground. Only the tank held by St. Frais and his Frenchmen remains, together with the mound that dominated it. In a country where the action of the great rivers in a single night and accretion takes place with equal rapidity, the disappearance of these landmarks is not to be wondered at, but the general outline is still easily discoverable. A pillar to mark the ground was erected by my predecessor in office, Sir Rivers Thompson, and this is now to be replaced by a worthier monument under the auspices of Lord Curzon."

II. THE COSSIMBAZAR AND BERHAMPUR PROGRAMME.

Cossimbazar.

The English had a settlement here as far back as 1658. In 1681 Job Charnock was appointed chief of the Factory. The English Factory lay on the road from Berhampur to Murshidabad and by the Bank of the Cossimbazar River. To the left looking toward Murshidabad, was first of all the Dutch Factory at Kalkapur and further to the left the French Factory at Saidabad. Of these factories in the momentous years 1756-57, as Mr. S. C. Hill writes:—"One



THE BARRACKS, BERHAMPUR.
(Photograph by the Rev. W. K. Firminger.)

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only, the English, was fortified; the others, *i.e.*, the French and the Dutch, were merely large houses lying in enclosures, the walls of which might keep out cattle and wild animals and even thieves but were useless as fortification." *(Four Frenchmen in Bengal*, p. 64). In 1756:—

(1) The chief of the English Factory was William Watts with whom the famous lady afterwards known as the "Begum Johnson" had, as her epitaph at St. John's puts it, "intermarried."

(2) The chief of the French Factory was M. Jean Law—Law of Lauriston—a brother of Jacques Francais Law, who also distinguished himself in India, but will always be known to students of French History by his notorious financial schemes.

(3) The chief of the Dutch was George Louis Vernet, the builder of Chinsurah Church, and a descendant of the famous painter.

The story of the treacherous capture of the English Factory by Suraj-ud-Daulat has been fully told by Mr. S. C. Hill in the introduction to his monumental work *Bengal in 1756-57*, where the event has a chapter to itself. The fortified factory could, perhaps, have held out for some months, but Watts, partly led by entreaties of his wife who was expecting her confinement, and by the advice of his Council, accepted a pledge of safe conduct from the enemy, and proceeded to visit Suraj-ud-Daulat. He and his companion were led into the Nawab's presence with their hands tied behind their backs, and were afterwards brought down to Calcutta as prisoners, when Suraj-ud-Daulat made his fateful march. The capture of the Chief led to the surrender of the Fort. The women were, thanks it is believed to the intercession of Amina Begum, but more probably to the traditional chivalry of Mahomedans in the matter of female prisoners, kindly treated, but the sufferings of the men actually culminated in the suicide of a young officer. The English Factory was

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destroyed Sinfray (St. Frais) the French officer who fought for Suraj-ud-Daulat at Plassey.

The Factory, once famous for its silks and ivory, was the place where Warren Hastings obtained his first experience in India. He came here in 1753, and was made a prisoner in October 1756, but set free on bail. All that remains of the old fort are some of the foundations covered by a mound.

KALKAPUR.

The Dutch Factory house was taken possession of by order of Warren Hastings in 1781. The quaint old Dutch cemetery preserves the memory of the Dutch and it has the grave of a Herkelots.

SAIDABAD.

The Berhampur water-works pumping station cover the site of the Farashdanga or French settlement. There is an interesting Armenian Church, built in 1758, at the cost of two lakhs and thirty-six thousand rupees. It is associated with the Varden family.

At Cossimbazar is the residence of Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy (a member of our Society), a descendant of Kantoo Babu so well known to students of Warren Hastings' History. Some of the remains of Cheyt Singh's house have been fitted up within the Palace.

There are two Temples we may perhaps be able to visit (of Neminath):—

1. The ancient Jain Temple with its "honey pit."
2. The temple of Doyamoi at Saidabad.

It is to be feared that the Byaspur Temple will be beyond our reach.

THE CEMETERIES.

There are three Cemeteries to be visited: the old English, the Dutch, and the Berhampur cemetery. The famous adventurer, George Thomas, and the runaway seaman who ascended a throne, died at Berhampur, but it is not known if he was buried there. The most important graves to be traced are those of:—

1. The first Mrs. Warren Hastings. See *Bengal Past and Present*, Vol. I, No. 1.

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2. Mrs. Mattocks (Wilson has "Mattocks:" Tull Walsh "Muttock")—"the granddaughter of the famous John Hampden."

3. Creighton, the explorer of Gaur.

4. Henry Sherwood, the infant son of Mrs. Sherwood, the author of "Little Henry and His Native Bearers," and several other story books, and of a most interesting auto-biography which contains sketches of "Patriarch" Brown, Henry Martyn, Corrie, and other persons of note. Little Henry died in 1807: his brother Henry Martyn Sherwood is still living and is in charge of a Worcestershire Rectory.

5. James Skinner.

Nearly all the printed authorities are hopelessly confused as to the whereabouts of these graves, and the present writer's memory is in conflict with each and all of them. Even C. R. Wilson has gone hopelessly astray, placing in separate cemeteries graves which in fact lie side by side: Tull Walsh failed to find the Sherwood grave and apparently confused the infant with Creighton. With Mr. E. W. Madge's aid we shall get our records righted.

BERHAMPUR.

The old Civil Station. The ruins are lost in jungle.

The Barracks. The site was selected by Clive in October 1757, after Plassey, but, although Mir Jaffar granted 133 acres of land, the Court in England for a time refused its sanction. The building was commenced in 1765 and was completed in 1767. In 1857, two detachments of the 34th Native Infantry, who had been much agitated by the greased cartridge incident, were marched up from Barrackpore to Berhampur, and confirmed the statements which the men of the 19th had already heard of in the vague. On 26th February the men of the 19th refused to receive their percussion caps for the next morning's parade. They seem to have been

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most unwisely dealt with by their Colonel and it is clear that they were frightened and alarmed rather than fiercely mutinous. In March they were sent down to Barrackpore, and having refused to adopt the seditious invitations addressed to them at Barasat by emissaries of the 34th, were disarmed at Barrackpore. "Then with Hearsay's kind farewell ringing in their ears, they went their way, cheering their old general; for they knew that, while he punished, he forgave them." (Rice Holmes: *History of that Indian Mutiny*, p. 87). The 84th British Regiment had been sent from Rangoon to Berhampur to enforce discipline.

Two years later a "white mutiny" occurred here. Some regiments had been recruited from the London slums and were known as the "Dumpies:" one of these regiments, the 8th European Regiment, broke into mutiny at Berhampur in May, 1859.

The troops were removed in 1870, and the Barracks are now used for Civil purposes.

The house occupied by the Collector was at one time Lord Clive's residence.

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TIME TABLE.

Friday, 5th March 1909.

Sealdah	...	Dept. 21-0 Standard Time (9-24 P.M. Calcutta time).

Saturday, 6th March 1909.

Plassey	...	Arr. 3-8 (The train will be put into a siding).
Chota Hazri	...	6-30
Visit Battlefield	...	7-0—10-0
Breakfast	...	10-15
Leave Plassey	...	11-5
Tiffin	...	1-30

[Afternoon tea will be served in the train.]

Sealdah	...	Arr. 16-35 (4-59 P.M. Calcutta time.)

Members are warned that the train cannot be delayed to meet their convenience.

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